

SITUATION REPORT NO 3
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: January 12, 1997 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Extremely cold temperature, in the 20 to 35 degrees below zero range with accompanying winds driving the windchill as low as 60 to 80 below zero, coupled with snow accumulations of up to 60 inches, has crippled the transportation system throughout the state. Blowing snow conditions continue to slow traffic in the eastern portion of the state.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: One additional death has been attributed to the storm, a stranded motorist died of exposure.
3. DAMAGE: An Amtrack passenger train was stranded in north central North Dakota. Passengers and crews were detained due to blocked rails.

Dairy production facilities are unable to make pickups at dairy farms due to blocked roads. Many dairy farmers are being forced to dump their milk due to the lack of pickup facilities caused by the blocked roads. Reports have been received of farmers dumping in excess of \$9,000.00 of milk per day.

Some grocery stores, especially in smaller communities in the state, have an extremely low inventory due to lack of deliveries from suppliers.

Truck stops in the Bismarck/Mandan area have reported in excess of 225 semi tractor/trailer rigs were parked awaiting opening of Eastbound Interstate 94.

Farmers and ranchers continue to be isolated. Many reports are being received of farmers needing repair parts for snow removal equipment that cannot be delivered due to blocked roads. Farmers and Ranchers continue to experience difficulties in getting feed to their livestock.

Many counties have had snow removal equipment operating and then have had to cease operations due to deteriorating weather conditions. When snow removal equipment was able to return to the area, they effectively had to start over due to the snow that had drifted back into the cleared areas.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation is leasing snow removal equipment from the State of Montana Department of Transportation.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED: No change from previous report.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous report.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The President has declared North Dakota a major disaster area due to Winter Storms and Blizzard.

Personnel from the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management and the State Department of Transportation are meeting with FEMA and South Dakota Emergency Management personnel on January 12.

Interstate Highway 94 is now open from the Montana - North Dakota border to the Minnesota state line. The Department of Transportation continues to work to open other primary and secondary roadways.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Federal assistance is required to locate and access Department of Defense equipment at military installations.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous report.
9. OTHER: No change from previous report.

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director